THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 18th February 1959.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at nine of the clock, Mr Speaker (THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

"*Quentin Durward*"

* 4 *S.N.Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM and SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the remarks of the High Court, while disposing a writ petition on 12th February 1959 regarding the adoption of the abridged version of "Quentin Durward" as the non-detailed text-book for the S.S.L.C. examination in March 1959; and

(*b*) what action the Government propose to take in the light of the remarks of the High Court?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) In accordance with the usual practice, the Government approved of the proposals of the Commissioner for Government Examinations to publish departmentally an abridged edition of "Quentin Durward" as one of the non-detailed text books for the S.S.L.C. Public Examination, 1959. The editing of the publication was entrusted to an officer of the department. Towards August 1958 it was brought to the notice of the Government that the publication contained a number of mistakes. As it was not practicable to withdraw the book at that stage, a comprehensive list of the errors noticed was published with the correction and sufficient number of copies of the errata were supplied free of cost to all schools for distribution to the pupils. Besides, a copy of the reprinted book, with all the corrections carried out in it was supplied free of cost to each school. A copy of the judgment on the writ petition has not been received. The action that may be necessary on the judgment will be taken by the Government on the receipt of the copy.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : இந்தப் புத்தகம் தயாரிக்கப்பட்ட பிறகு அதை எஸ்.எஸ்.எல்.ஸி. பரீட்சைக்கு வைக்கலாமா என்று ஆராய்ச்சி செய்து முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டதா ? அல்லது, புத்தகத்தை முடிவு செய்து கொண்டு, பிறகு இந்த அம்மையாரைப் பார்த்து, இந்தப் புத்தகம் எழுதவேண்டும் என்ற உத்தரவிடப்பட்டதா ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : "Quentin Durward" என்ற புத்தகத்தை வைப்பது என்று முடிவு செய்து, அதை எழுத வேண்டும் என்று அவரிடத்தில் ஒப்படைக்கப்பட்டது.

[18th February 1959

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : இந்த அம்மையாரைத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்க வேண்டிய அவசியம் என்ன ? இந்த அம்மையாருக்கு இதற்கு முன் புத்தகம் எழுதிய அனுபவம் உண்டா ? இம்மாதிரி புத்தகம் இதற்கு முன் அவர் எழுதியிருக்கிறாரா ? அவரால் எழுதப்பட்ட புத்தகம் ஏதாவது டெக்ஸ்ட் புக் கமிட்டியாரால் அங்கீகரிக்கப்பட்டு பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் பாடப் புத்தகமாக வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : இதற்கு முந்திய வருஷத்திலே இந்த அம்மையார் அவர்கள் தான் நான்-டீடெயில்டு டெக்ஸ்ட் புக் எழுதினார்கள். அது ரொம்ப நன்றாக இருந்தது என்று சிலாகித்துச் சொன்னார்கள். அதனால்தான் அடுத்த வருஷமும் அது ஒப்படைக்கப் பட்டது.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : What was the remuneration paid to the author? Since this was only an abridged edition of the original book, what was the reason for a large number of mistakes to creep in at the time of the publication of the abridged edition?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : In re-writing the book the mistakes have crept in. I am really unable to understand how the lady committed all the mistakes, because she is supposed to be an English teacher well versed in English. So the matter is being looked into. I am not aware of the remuneration paid for the work.

SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : இது ஒரிஜினல் புஸ்தகத்தை 'அப்ரிட்ஜ்' செய்யப்பட்டதுதானா ? அல்லது 'கம்ப்ளீட்' ஆக 'ரீரைட்' செய்து புதியதாக எழுதப்பட்டதா ? அது புதியதாகத்தான் இருக்கவேண்டும். ஏனென்றால். . . . . .

MR. SPEAKER : He is asking a question. Why should the hon. Member give the answer himself?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : It is an abridged edition and in doing it certain sentences have been re-written and in these mistakes have crept in.

SRI A. VEDARATHNAM : மறுபடியும் சர்க்கார் வெளியிட்ட திருத்தத்திலே பல தவறுதல் இருக்கிறதென்பது அரசாங்கத்தினுடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டதா ? அது எப்படி நிகழ்ந்தது ? அதைத் திருத்த என்ன ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்பட்டது ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : திருத்தத்திலும் திருத்தங்கள் இல்லை. குற்றங்கள் திருத்தப்படாது சில குற்றங்கள் இருப்பதாக நானே கண்டு பிடித்து மறுபடியும் அனுப்பியிருக்கிறேன். அவை சிறு குற்றங்கள்தான். வார்த்தைகள் எந்தெந்தப் பக்கத்திலே போடவேண்டும் என்பதிலே சிறு குற்றங்கள். ஆனால், அவைகளையும்கூட கவனிக்க வேண்டும் என்று நான் அனுப்பியிருக்கிறேன்.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Arising out of the answers given by the Hon. Minister and drawing out a lesson for our benefit, do the Government still cling to the fond idea of publishing text books in future also or will they drop that fond idea and leave the thing to the private enterprise?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : This one instance should not be taken to condemn the publication of text books by the Government. Perhaps we may take a lesson out of this, I do

18th February 1959]

agree. It does not mean that we should give up the idea. On the other hand it will be possible for us to do the thing in a much better way taking advantage of the lesson arising out of this instance.

I am sorry to find that taking advantage of this, all the press are writing editorials that anything taken by the Government will only end in this. I wish to state that there is absolutely no warrant for such an assumption.

Sami Motor Transport (Private) Limited, Tanjore

* 358 *Q.*—Sri S. PAKKIRISAMI PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the steps taken to reinstate the dismissed employees of Sami Motor Transport (Private), Limited, Tanjore; and

(*b*) the steps taken to redress the grievances of the workers employed in the said Motor Transport Service?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) The efforts of the Labour Officer, Tiruchirappalli, and the Assistant Commissioner of Labour to settle the dispute were not successful. However, the Minister for Industries discussed the matter with the parties at Tanjore on 4th January 1959 and brought about a settlement. According to one of the terms of the settlement, it was agreed that the question of reinstatement of 22 workers shall be investigated by the Commissioner of Labour or his nominee on merits and the decision of the Commissioner of Labour shall be final and binding on both the parties. The Commissioner of Labour is taking action accordingly.

(*b*) In its strike notice, the Motor Transport and General Workers' Union raised 17 demands, of which the reinstatement of 22 workers was one. It was found that on merits, there was no case for adjudication on any of the demands. However, as a result of the settlement brought about by the Minister for Industries on 4th January 1959, the workers agreed to withdraw the strike, the management agreed to allow the workers to resume work without victimisation, the cases of 22 workers were to be decided by the Commissioner of Labour and the workers agreed not to agitate any other demands for a period of six months, and to express regret for the past incidents. Thus, their grievances had been redressed. There is now no dispute in the concern except the question of reinstatement of 22 workers.

Mr. SPEAKER : In view of the detailed answer given by the Hon. Minister is there any scope for supplementaries?

Sri S. PAKKIRISAMI PILLAI : There are so many other things on which I wish to ask questions.

Mr. SPEAKER : I have no objection, but it is not going to help.